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TO AMEMBASSY GENEVA

SECRET/SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

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WH37742

ТОНАК 171

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

TO RALPH SIGLER FOR LARRY EAGLEBURGER.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DECEMBER 20, 1973

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: THE PRESIDENT

"ON THE EVE OF THE CONVENING OF THE HISTORIC CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, I WANTED TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY RESPECT AND THE GRATITUDE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR YOUR CRUCIAL ROLE IN THIS GREAT ENTERPRISE. WITHOUT YOUR DIPLOMATIC SKILL, PERSEVERANCE, AND DEDICATION TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE, THIS CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE TAKING PLACE. WHILE THIS IS BUT THE FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT IS A VITALLY IMPORTANT STEP, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PROUD THAT IT WAS THEIR SECRETARY OF STATE WHO BROUGHT IT ABOUT. NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT AS WE WORK TOGETHER IN THIS VITAL PURSUIT."

WARM REGARDS.

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